



MARCH is women history month in the United States. Women were not always recognized as serving in the military and thus not acknowledged after wars and conflicts. The Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs always remembers the women who have served and still serve our great nation with an emphasis this month on the history of Indiana women who have served and sacrificed so all will continue to take pleasure in the freedoms our country.

International Women's Day was first celebrated March 8, 1911, which observed the achievements of women throughout the world. March 8th is still recognized throughout the world and the United States has extended the celebration from a day in March to the month of March. Women's History Month includes women of every race, class, and ethnic background (Public Law 100-9). There are over 35,000 women veterans who reside in Indiana. Three Hoosier women veterans have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the recent conflict fighting terror.

Hoosier women have served in all branches of our military in wars to include before the civil war. The recent war on terror has also been supported by Hoosier servicewomen.





Marine **Sgt Jeannette Winters** joined the marines after graduating high school and earned the title of satellite communication technician (radio operator). She was assigned to the Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, also known as the “Raiders” stationed in Miramar, California. Winters was flying a combat mission over Pakistan when the refueling KC-130R went down and yielded no survivors. She was the first woman killed in the war after the 9/11 attacks and is also honorably noted as the first woman marine ever to be killed in a hostile fire zone. A homeless shelter located in Gary, Indiana was dedicated in memory of Sgt Winters along with a scholarship assisting US Marines and veteran marines majoring in electrical, aerospace or computer engineering; computer science; physics; or mathematics.





Another woman from Indiana who paid the ultimate sacrifice was Air Force **SRA Ashton L.M. Goodman**. Goodman enlisted in the Air Force after graduating high school in 2006. She trained to be a vehicle operator/dispatcher and was leading a convoy near Baghram Air Field in Afghanistan when a road side bomb detonated. Goodman was known for having a vivacious spirit and a zest for life. She also selflessly volunteered for additional duties and mentored Panjshir women of Afghanistan teaching them leadership skills within the region and also became a writer/photographer for the Air Force which published some of her work. She is admirably remembered for her work with Afghan women by the Ashton Goodman Fund Supporting Afghan Women's Writing Program. The program assists women with learning how to read, furthering their education, and providing leadership skills.





Seaman Apprentice Shayna A. Schnell is yet one more Hoosier woman we are proud of for courage to accomplish demanding missions even though there were hazards and difficulties present. Schnell became a master of arms while serving in the US Navy. She helped provide security and protection for naval assets worldwide. She was a proud member of the Naval Security Force in Bahrain and was working with the Jebel Ali Detachment in United Arab Emirates. While on her way to an appointment off station the taxi she was riding had a tire blow out which resulted in hitting a concrete wall. The concrete wall collapsed crushing Schnell. Most of her immediate family supported her by travelling across the world to be by her side. She passed away as a result of her injuries. She was praised by her superiors as having strength and character and being dedicated to her family and her country.



All men and women veterans of this great nation have in some way sacrificed a part or all of their lives to create and sustain freedoms for our country. The month of March is observed as women's history month and we are honorably remembering all of our women veterans of Indiana.

